
COULEE CORRIDOR BYWAY BEAT

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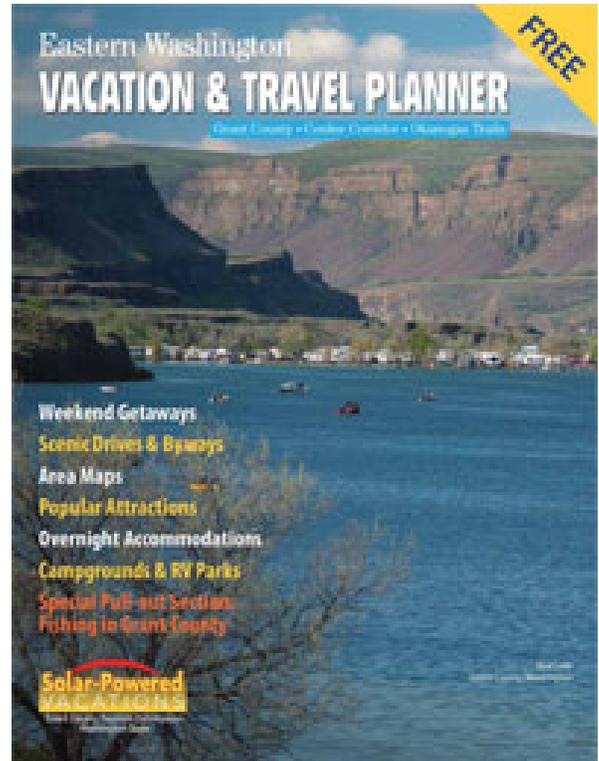
CCC Kiosk Project Progresses

A National Scenic Byways grant is helping the Coulee Corridor Consortium reach its goal of installing community kiosks in several towns along a portion of the 150 mile long Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway between Omak and Othello.

To date, the CCC has come up with a cookie-cutter template of descriptions for the Coulee Corridor's part of the panels. Five towns are participating in this process. Each town is preparing original content that highlights features of their respective communities.

Towns represented include Othello, Warden, Soap Lake, Coulee City, and Grand Coulee. Locations have been identified though a rather lengthy permitting process is still taking place.

The CCC expects the kiosk projects to be installed later this year.



Eastern Washington Travel Planners

The Coulee Corridor Consortium has an integral part of a regional publication (whose cover is shown above with a special section shown below). Fifty thousand copies of this colorful glossy magazine were printed in 2016 and are distributed annually throughout Washington, the Pacific Northwest and points beyond.

To get your copy today, go to <http://www.nweekendgetaways.com/>, visit www.couleecorridor.com to request a copy or visit your local Chamber of Commerce.

Mark Your Calendars for the Second Annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium being held April 23, 2016 9-1 PM at the Technical Skills Center, 920 E. Yonezawa Blvd, Moses Lake. The Grant-Adams Master Gardeners and Grant County Conservation District are co-sponsoring this event.

Keynote speaker is Joan Davenport, WSU Extension Soil Scientist who will speak on Getting to Know Your Soil - Simple Soil Tests to Keep at Hand.

Other speakers include: Kelsey Loeffler-Prickett, BFI Native Seeds who will speak on Xeriscaping - The Native Approach; Heather Wendt, Benton Franklin Conservation District, who will talk about Creating Low Water Use Gardens in the Columbia Basin. The final speaker is Andrew McGuire, WSU Extension Ag Systems Specialist, who will discuss challenges, guidelines, and solutions for assist gardeners with lawn and garden irrigation.

To register for this free event, go to www.columbiabasinncds.org or via phone/in-person at:

Grant County Conservation District
1107 S. Juniper Dr.
Moses Lake, WA. 98837
Tel: 509-765-9618

Registration may also be done at the door starting at 8:30 AM though the symposium will be limited to the first 100 registrants. There will be snacks and door prizes.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium

~Managing soils and water in the Columbia Basin

Saturday, April 23rd, 2016
9 am — to 1 pm (8:30 am sign-ins begin)
Technical Skills Center
920 E Yonezawa Blvd, Moses Lake



~Free Admission
~Door Prizes
~Refreshments

Featured Speakers:

- **Joan Davenport (Keynote Speaker) – WSU Professor of Soil Science**
~ Easy Tools to Get to Know Your Soil
- **Kelsey Prickett – Forb Production Manager, BFI Native Seeds**
~ Xeriscaping – The Native Approach
- **Heather Wendt – Assistant Manager, Benton & Franklin Conservation Districts**
~ Creating Low Water Use Gardens that Inspire – Heritage Gardens
- **Andrew McGuire – Cropping Systems Agronomist, WSU Extension**
~ Challenges & Techniques in Landscape Irrigation Management

Space is limited so please pre-register:

Online: www.columbiabasinncds.org

By Phone: 509-765-9618

In Person: Grant County Conservation District
1107 S. Juniper Drive, Moses Lake



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Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in this program may call 509-754-2110, Ext. 4313 or email: gs.ngvolunteer@wsu.edu. If accommodations are not requested at least five (5) days in advance, we cannot guarantee availability of accommodations.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Mark your calendar for the 19th annual **Othello Sandhill Crane Festival** set to fly March 18-20, 2016. The Festival will feature education classes, partner displays and featured banquet and bus tours to see cranes in the fields near Othello on the south end of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.

The festival celebrates the great Pacific flyway where as many as 25,000 Lesser Sandhill Cranes stop in the area to feed and rest before continuing on to nesting sites in Alaska, Northern Canada and Siberia. Cranes may be seen flying and landing in cropland fields throughout the Othello area in March and April.

The sandhill crane festival offers a variety of fun, education and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. Through the festival there are opportunities to take guided tours to view cranes, find prime birding habitats, travel to the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Palouse Falls and learn about the landscapes, agriculture, and geology of the area. There are children's programs, an art show, 4-H demonstrations, and vendors representing a wide variety of organizations. Pre-registration is suggested to reserve your seat as some tours fill up quickly.

For a festival brochure or to sign up for its events, contact Marie Lotz at the Grant County Conservation District office in Moses Lake:

marie-lotz@conservewa.net or go to www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org.



Mammoth dig is in a field in the Frenchman Hills

Ancient Mammoth Unearthed... By Mark Amara

While moldboard plowing up an alfalfa field on the north end of the Frenchman Hills late last winter-spring 2015 at Tonnemaker Farms (on the east end of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway), mammoth bones were discovered. Kole and son, Luke Tonnemaker patiently excavated the bones every chance they had as long as it did not interfere with their primary farming operation. They were helped by geologist, George Last, science teacher, Gary Kleinknecht, paleontologist, Bax Barton, geo-archaeologist, Mark Amara, and volunteers from the McBones Research Foundation, Kennewick, Washington. Bones are not articulated but are spread across more than 20 meters most of which occurred in the plow zone. Portions of the skull, limb bones, vertebrae, and other fragments were meticulously documented, exhumed, and removed for preservation. Though many of the bones are fragmentary, there was sufficient material to date the find and help identify parts of the body represented. A trench several meters long was hand dug to expose a portion of the soil profile during one of the weekends the dig was going on.

During that investigation, three volcanic ashes were discovered, exposed and sampled. All the ash samples were below the bone bed within fine grained Ice Age flood deposits. They were submitted to the Washington State University Geo Analytical Laboratory for electron microprobe analysis and tephra identification in the fall of 2015. Bulk compositions of glass shards together with stratigraphic position suggest that all three tephra deposits are most likely associated with the Swift Creek Stage of Mt. St. Helens eruptive history, and may be as young as 10,740 C14 yrs BP.



George Last (kneeling), Luke and Kole Tonnemaker (white shirts) probe the earth, discover and exhume bones with extraordinary care and meticulousness.

The Swift Creek stage of Mount St. Helens' eruptive history had two main eruptive phases that produced tephra deposits found within Eastern Washington. The first phase produced Set "S" and the later phase produced Set "J". The lower two tephra layers at the Tonnemaker Site are interpreted to be of Set "S". These are located 10 cm apart, separated by Ice Age flood deposits. The upper most tephra, located another 10 cm above the other two lower tephtras (in Ice Age flood deposits), contains glass similar to both set "S" (dated at ~13,600 to 12,500 C14 yrs BP) and set "J" (dated at 10,740 C14 yrs BP).

Mount St. Helens set "S" tephtras are well recognized in Ice Age flood deposits throughout Eastern Washington. However, set "M" tephtras are not well documented in Eastern Washington. Mullineaux's 1996 paper, titled Pre-1980 Tephra Fall Deposits Erupted from Mount St. Helens, Washington, states that while set "M" tephtra is found 9-15 km east and southeast of the volcano, elsewhere it has been mostly eroded and incorporated into other sediments.

Bulk composition of the glass in all three samples were comparable to glass found in Mount St. Helens set "S" (dated at ~13,600 to 12,500 C14

yrs BP) and set "M" (dated at ~ 20,350 ±350 to 19,160 ±250 C14 yrs BP). The upper most sample contained other glass compositions (some similar to that found in younger set "J" tephtras).

Several ideas or theories have been proposed to explain how the bones came to be there. Most of the sediments that are present in the Columbia Basin are associated with the gigantic Missoula floods which swept through the area more than 13,000 years ago. Fine textured sediments at the Tonnemaker site appear to be indicative of quiet water conditions in a large body of water and are overlain by loess. Slack water deposits associated with a large inland lake, called Lake Lewis, dropped sediment throughout the area. The Tonnemaker site is along the purported shoreline of one of the slack water lakes depositional events. The mammoth may have been ice rafted in as a carcass, as a live animal carried in by glacial ice and died, was washed in or died shortly after flood waters invaded or receded from the area. Since the bones all appear to be from a single animal, any one of these explanations may be plausible though work continues to pinpoint origins. The three volcanic ashes present at the site suggest there may have been at least three flood events though the bones are all above the highest ash.

There are additional plans to interpret the site geology, speculate about the number and age of flood events, make determinations about the animal itself including its age, size, species, and other features, and conduct other studies as time and finances allow. OSL (optically stimulated luminescence) testing site sediments in a Utah lab and other geomorphic, geologic and faunal studies are underway. After study and preservation, the Tonnemaker family will display the bones, describe their context, and provide tours. The find is unique because it offers a window into the past paleo-environment that few of us ever get to see.

Reference:

Dodd, Jessica L., George V, Last, Mark Amara, Kole Tonnemaker and Luke Tonnemaker
2016 *Tephra Chronology of the Frenchman Hills Mammoth Site: Shedding Light on Its Geologic History*. Abstract of Poster Paper Presented to the Northwest Scientific Association, Bend, OR. March.



Bax Barton and Luke Tonnemaker on site



Stratigraphy with George Last

Cut here and return with your membership materials

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC) wants your help and asks that people consider becoming 2016 members of the organization. The CCC is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Benefits of organizational membership include: supporting the Coulee Corridor Consortium, keeping abreast of and participating in new activities and events sponsored by the Consortium along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway, opportunity to help leadership by focusing positive attention on the corridor, be placed on mailing list for quarterly newsletter, and receiving increased member visibility as a listing on the Coulee Corridor website.

- ⊠ \$25.00 Individual Membership Fee
- ⊠ \$40.00 Family Membership Fee
- ⊠ \$75.00 Business, Non-Profit, or Other Membership Fee
- ⊠ \$15 Senior Citizen
- ⊠ \$5 Ages 6-18 or student

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Web page listing: _____

Send applications and checks to Coulee Corridor Consortium, PO Box 123 Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Upcoming Events & Activities

Dry Falls Interpretive Center opened in early March and will remain open through October 31, 2016. Hours are: Thursday-Sunday 9-4:30 PM, Monday 10-4:30, Closed Tuesday-Wednesday.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, March 18-20, 2016.

Triple Fish Tournament, Coulee Playland Resort, Electric City, April 15-16, 2016.

Coulee Corridor Consortium Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick Up, Saturday April 16, 2016 at the Lake Lenore parking lot, 9 AM. Bags, hard hats, vests, and refreshments provided. Bring gloves and sturdy shoes.

Second Annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium, April 23, 2016, Technical Skills Center, 920 E. Yonezawa Blvd, Moses Lake, 9-1PM. Free.

Flood Fest & Dry Falls 50th Anniversary Celebration, May 14, 2016, 11-4:30. The program includes distinguished speakers on geology, geography, and wildlife; exhibits and center dedication. The public is invited to a walk through the shrub-steppe to look at habitat, geology, and other features.

Monthly CCC Meeting Schedule

March 18, 2016 - Othello Senior Center, 755 N 7th

April 15, 2016 - Koala Café, 914 Koala Ave, Omak

May 20, 2016 - The Red Door Café, 116 W. Third Ave, Moses Lake

Editor's Note: Coulee Corridor Consortium Meetings are held monthly throughout the Region

The public is invited to attend any of these Friday lunch time events to find out what is happening and to participate in events and activities.

Coulee Corridor Consortium Officers
Tim Alling, Chair

Mark Amara, 1st Vice Chair

Ken Caylor, 2nd Vice Chair

Secretary - Vacant

Barb Caylor, Treasurer

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